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Extension Service - War Food Administration LIBRARY RECORD

WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

A SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Reports on food production, farm labor, Victory Gardens, and dairy improvement headline this week's summary.

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MONTANA

April 1, 1944

Farm labor.- Plans for Victory Farm Volunteer phase of emergency farm labor program have been perfected. Supervision and general organization will be about same as last year. County agents are being urged to organize 4-H labor clubs among older members where practicable. Basis for these labor projects is completion of certain number of hours of work in producing food. Agents expect to have over 600 boys and girls enrolled in 4-H labor clubs.

Food production.- Irrigation specialist assisted one county in plans for weed-control district which would help considerably to increase crop yields. In another county several meetings were held to discuss adapted varieties, rotation practices, and use and application of barnyard and commercial fertilizers under irrigated practices. Dairy specialist also attended and discussed increased and more efficient dairy production.

Extension agronomist is putting stress on "most and best" as means of maintaining maximum food production in current and future years. This approach was emphasized at meeting of AAA community committeemen, attended in cooperation with State AAA chairman. Adaptation of crops was placed ahead of suggested acreages of county goal figures which had previously been determined. Guidance of production remains in hands of local county planning committees, War Boards, and others familiar with conditions. This conforms to policy that maximum production can be attained by continued emphasis on best possible adaptation of crops. Discussion at this meeting served as guide for discussions with groups in other counties. It was recognized that where crop goal figures for a particular county apparently could not be achieved, other counties would more than make up difference.

Victory Gardens.- Extension horticulturist again emphasized Victory Gardens in circular letter to agents. Letter contained considerable information on national food situation and also urged that neighborhood leaders again be used in assuring ample vegetables for rural and urban communities. Suggestion was made that service groups be encouraged to participate in local garden committee in developing community approach to garden problems and production.

PENNSYLVANIA
April 1, 1944

Farm labor.- After passage of Public Law 229, State-wide conference of county agents was held to forward emergency farm labor program. As in 1943, plan of operation this year consists of county emergency farm labor committees acting in advisory capacity to county agricultural agent and his emergency farm labor assistant. Because of earlier authorization of program, county labor activities are getting earlier start than last year, and therefore, are expected to be even more effective. County extension leaders (neighborhood leaders) are again being used to help bring this program before people in their counties.

Post-war problems.- Executive committees of County Extension Associations have held 51 meetings in last 2 months to consider post-war problems in agriculture and rural living. These groups usually resolve themselves into committees of the whole to assume leadership in study of post-war agriculture. In other instances special subcommittees are designated to take necessary leadership in this thinking. Before May 1 all counties will have considered their place in agricultural development of their respective areas during next few years.

Food production and preservation.- Program has been put under way through selection to date of 15 special assistants in wartime food production and preservation.

Dairy improvement.- Marked interest in artificial breeding is giving impetus to dairy improvement. Three associations are now in operation, and fourth is almost ready to start. Prospects indicate development of several more during current year.

Of more immediate value in their effect upon milk production in 1944 are managed milking demonstrations -- now popular activities on county extension programs. Dairymen, generally, are much interested in this practical and efficient method of increasing milk production.

VIRGINIA
March 1, 1944

Farm labor.- In survey of labor situation, conducted among neighborhood leaders in every county, 4,006 replies were received. Leaders reported that on their farms this year there are 1,730 boys from 14 to 18 years of age, as compared with 2,320 boys same age on same farms last year -- decrease of 25.4 percent. On these 4,006 farms there are 7,593 men over 18 years of age as compared with 8,358 men over 18 last year -- decrease of 9.1 percent. Asked, "Are there more workers on farms of your 5 closest neighbors this year than last year?" almost none reported more, and 2,411 reported fewer workers.

Victory Gardens.- During February, vegetable gardening specialists attended 63 meetings with total attendance of 2,528. Of these meetings, 23, with attendance of 1,138, were primarily for leaders of home garden projects in rural and urban areas. Since work was done with leaders rather than individual gardeners, spread of information should be much greater.

4-H garden club circular was prepared, and 15,000 copies will be distributed to club members and leaders. Extension vegetable specialists also cooperated with oil company in preparation of garden folder, particularly for urban gardeners. Approximately 50,000 copies will be distributed, largely through filling stations.

Dairying.- Annual convention and war production conference of Virginia State Dairymen's Association, in Roanoke, was attended by 459 dairymen from all parts of State. Extension dairy specialists did much detailed work in organizing program, procuring speakers, and in general supervision. Convention was best of its kind ever held in State, specialists believe. Three Virginia dairy cattle breeder associations were also assisted with programs for their annual meetings. Short courses on 8-Point Dairy Production Program was held on campus by dairy department of V.P.I. Course was requested by dairy industry to correlate thinking and coordinate action of dairy fieldmen in Virginia and to help increase dairy production to limit in 1944. At meeting, organization known as Dairy Fieldmen's Association of Virginia was set up to work with agricultural agents in carrying subject matter to patrons of Virginia dairy plants. Ten meetings were held with dairy farmers in effort to build up dairy production. County agents and members of Virginia State Dairymen's Association have been circularized with detailed information on 8-Point Dairy Production Program.

Special emphasis has been placed on problem of feed production. Specialists hope to deal more specifically with harvesting, processing, and storing of dairy feed crops later in year. Now they are emphasizing feed meetings, quality milk production, and dairy cattle breeding. Preliminary work has been done on organizing State 4-H milk-production contest and State-wide 4-H dairy-management contest, such as were held last year. It is hoped many more farm boys and girls will take part and thus assure better feeding and better milking of more Virginia cows.

Agronomy.- During month, agronomist discussed suggestions for meeting Virginia 1944 crop goals at three community and neighborhood leaders' meetings in Westmoreland County and one in Richmond County, at farmers' meetings in Washington and Clarke Counties, and at school for representatives of dairy industry at V.P.I.

Conference was held with representatives of fertilizer manufacturers for determining grades of fertilizer to be recommended in Virginia in 1944-45. County agents were given 3,000 copies of circular recommending corn hybrids for Virginia and urging use of adapted hybrids to help increase yields.

Animal husbandry.- Four county hog-production schools and two community meetings were held in some leading hog-producing counties. Three cooperative purebred hog sales were held to assist in dissemination of good breeding stock.

Negro farm agent activities.- Negro farm agents have conducted educational meetings to train community and neighborhood leaders and to carry message of Food Fights for Freedom program to farm families. In Greenville County, for instance, leader-training meeting was held to discuss food goals for 1944. Since it was decided that community meetings by agent and leaders would be necessary to do thorough job, more community meetings were planned. In Prince Edward County, meeting early in month resulted in other meetings being held throughout county. Leaders did excellent job of getting out information. Three neighborhood-leader training meetings were held in Brunswick County, with attendance of 30. At each meeting

some time was given to farm records and hybrid corn for increasing corn yields. Neighborhood leaders held meetings attended by 142 farmers and reported much interest in farm records and hybrid corn.

In Appomattox County, five meetings were held to discuss goals. Four pressure cookers were placed with farm families. Sussex County Advisory Board approved purchase of 12 purebred pigs to be given to 4-H Club members throughout county. Members are supposed to breed these hogs and give another club member in same county a pig from litter. In an Isle of Wight County meeting, 30 leaders discussed report of ownership trends among negro farmers, what can be done by leaders to keep trend upward, and need for more machinery on negro farms. Average value of machinery in county, by 1940 census, was \$385 for white farmers and \$106 for negro farmers. In Halifax County 11 community club meetings were held, with total attendance of 348 men and women. Crop and livestock goals for 1944 and need for more pulpwood were major subjects discussed.